

Testimony for public hearing Appropriations Committee February 21, 2017

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I am testifying as a New Haven resident against cuts to Educational Center for the Arts (ECA) My name is Paul Garlinghouse and my daughter has attended Educational Center for the Arts (ECA) for all four years of high school and has just been accepted to the Theater Studies program at UCONN. I remember well the excitement she felt upon getting her acceptance letter to ECA, second only perhaps to her UCONN letter. My eighth grade son is currently applying to the music department at ECA.

ECA serves the greater New Haven area with excellent arts education of all kinds. In the theater department my daughter has collaborated with exceptionally talented kids from all over this region. At ECA my daughter performed in many challenging works, including an Odets play, Waiting for Lefty, that Connecticut Repertory is currently producing.

This opportunity for our talented children to work together and develop as artists and as human beings does not exist anywhere else in my area. While I understand that the roads and bridges have to be maintained and many other areas of the budget clamor for your attention, investing in developing young Connecticut artists is no luxury. It is one of the crucial elements that attracts families to live in our region. It is one of the reasons people stay.

Thank you for your time and consideration